

REMARKS

Claims 2 and 3 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 1 is canceled, claim 2 is written in independent form, and claim 3 is amended to depend from claim 2.

The Form PTO-326 and the written Office Action indicate that the priority documents have not been received. However, the certified copy of the priority document was filed with the application, as shown on the copy of the stamped post attached hereto. It is requested that the Patent Office file be searched again to locate the certified priority document.

The disclosure is objected to for several minor informalities. By this Amendment, correction of the specific issues raised in the Office Action is made. It is submitted that all informalities have been resolved.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1 and 3 have antecedent errors, and claims 2 and 3 are rejected for their dependency on claim 1. By this Amendment, claim 2 is written in independent form incorporating the features of claim 1, but reciting them in a different order for clarity and to provide proper antecedent support. The dependency of claim 3 is corrected. It is unclear why the dependency of claims 2 and 3 is objected to in the Office Action. The invention is recited as a combination and properly sets forth the elements that comprise the combination. It is submitted that the claims are clear and definite and requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Higuchi et al., JP 11053296 A. Claims 2 and 3 are indicated as containing allowable subject matter. In order to expedite prosecution, claim 1 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 2 is written in independent form and claim 3 is amended to depend from claim 2. It is submitted that all of the claims are in condition for allowance and a prompt notice to that effect is requested.

Should further issues require resolution prior to allowance, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned. Should any fees be required to effect entry of this amendment, the Commissioner of Patents is hereby authorized to charge deposit account 03-3975.

Respectfully submitted,
Pillsbury Winthrop LLP

By: Caroline D. Dennison

Caroline D. Dennison

Reg. No.: 34,494

Tel. No.: (703) 905-2047

Fax No.: (703) 905-2500

CDD/bhs
P.O. Box 10500
McLean, VA 22102

(703) 905-2000